

In life and in War . . .  
 All In That Battle,  
 will we be the ones to so bravely march  
 forth?  
 All in our most selfless quests, to ourselves  
 to so ignore!  
 Is that not who Heaven is for?  
 Specialist Gorman,  
 you are a real American Hero so for sure!  
 For only The Few,  
 will In The Battle so march off to war to so  
 answer that call!  
 And the last time I saw Specialist Gorman,  
 he was walking tall!

# HONORING JOSEPH ACABA FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HIS- PANIC COMMUNITY

## HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Joseph Acaba's inspiring career as an astronaut, hydrogeologist, serviceman, and an educator.

Mr. Acaba received his Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and his Master's degree in Geology from the University of Arizona. Mr. Acaba was a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps Reserves where he served for six years. He also worked as a hydrogeologist in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Acaba spent two years in the United States Peace Corps and trained over 300 teachers in the Dominican Republic in modern teaching methodologies. He then served as Island Manager of the Caribbean Marine Research at Lee Stocking Island in The Exumas, Bahamas. Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Acaba moved to Florida where he became the Shoreline Revegetation Coordinator for Vero Beach. He also taught science and math at Melbourne High School and taught for four years at Dunnellon Middle School.

On May 6, 2004, Joseph Acaba became the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA. After completing training, Mr. Acaba was selected as an Educator Mission Specialist and assigned to the crew of space shuttle Discovery's mission which launched on March 15, 2009. Mr. Acaba, carried a Puerto Rican flag with him and requested that the crew be awakened on March 19 to the Puerto Rico folklore song "Que Bonita Bandera." During his mission, Mr. Acaba performed a spacewalk that successfully unfurled the final "wings" of the solar array that will augment power to the International Space Station.

Mr. Acaba was also a crewmember aboard the Soyuz spacecraft which launched from Kazakhstan and docked with the International Space station in May of 2012. He and the crew spent 30 days at the International Space Station before returning to Earth on September 17, 2012.

Mr. Acaba has received numerous awards recognizing his accomplishments including the Ana G. Mendez University System Presidential Medal, an honorary Doctorate from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, and recognition from the Senate of Puerto Rico.

I am happy to honor Joseph Acaba, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his contributions

to the Hispanic community and his many achievements.

### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LEO LAMOS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Leo Lamos for his service to Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Mr. Lamos is a tireless and devoted public servant who has continuously given back to his community. One of Central Florida's great music educators, Leo serves a crucial role in the south Orlando community as the Director of Bands at Cypress Creek High School. As a former student at Cypress Creek High School and later a student at the University of Central Florida, Leo has brought his talents and leadership to a community with which he is very familiar. Under his direction, Cypress Creek's band program has continued to uphold its tradition of excellence by bringing national attention to its burgeoning group of music students.

In order for public school bands to travel, perform and compete on a national level, involvement and sponsorship from the community is crucial. Encouraging partnerships and sponsorships from locally owned businesses, Mr. Lamos has been tireless in his efforts to create an unparalleled musical experience for his over 100 students. Mr. Lamos's efforts in mentoring and educating his students have produced promising young musicians that have gone on to study at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music and several other universities.

I am happy to honor Leo Lamos, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his dedication and service to the students of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF ELIAS "RICO" PICCARD

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Elias "Rico" Piccard for his service to our country and to my district.

Rico Piccard, born Elias Piccard, was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1946. In 1966, he left the island and relocated to New York City. A year later was drafted by the U.S. Army to serve during the Vietnam War. After his honorable discharge, Piccard attended the Hostos Community College in the Bronx, NY, where he graduated with an Associates of Arts degree and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts. He later went on to attend Columbia University, where he completed a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Piccard's career is characterized by his selfless dedication to help others. During his career he worked as a Social Worker for Volunteers of America and spent ten years working at the Montifiore Hospital in New York City's Rikers Island assisting inmates with mental health issues.

In 1994, Piccard left his position at Montifiore Hospital and moved to Orlando, FL. In Orlando, he became a community leader and helped organize multiple rallies and marches in the Hispanic community. In 2000, he started a new tourist transportation company called Rico Transportation.

Piccard began writing a column called "Rico Informa," Rico Informs, for Puerto Rico's El Nuevo Dia newspaper to describe issues affecting Puerto Ricans living in Central Florida. In 2009, Piccard helped create United Front 436, Frente Unido 436, a community organization formed by a group of neighbors concerned with the physical deterioration and lack of security in the east side of Orange County and Orlando.

I am happy to honor Elias "Rico" Piccard, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his tireless service to his community.

### RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF PALMIRA UBINAS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize Palmira Ubinas. Mrs. Ubinas has made invaluable contributions to the arts and Puerto Rican culture.

Mrs. Ubinas has mastered many art forms and uses them to represent her heritage and traditions as a Puerto Rican American. She currently serves as the President and Founder of the Hispanic Arts and Culture International Association (ALPEH), as well as the Co-Chair for the 500th Florida Discovery Council Round Table.

A native of Puerto Rico, Mrs. Ubinas received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Puerto Rico in Psychology and Political Science. Later, she completed her post-graduate studies in Communications, Public Relations, and Hispanic Literature. Mrs. Ubinas has showcased the talents she obtained through her childhood in Puerto Rico and her university education in her various professional positions. As a journalist, event coordinator, editor, TV and radio host, Mrs. Ubinas has been able to represent her culture and heritage proudly. She has earned several awards and recognitions and served as the Educational Specialist and Commerce Development Officer for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration.

I am happy to honor Palmira Ubinas, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her continuous service to the arts and commitment to the Hispanic community.

### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARYTZA SANZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the accomplishments of one of Orlando's true leaders, Marytza Sanz.

As founding President and CEO of Latino Leadership, Inc., Marytza Sanz has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of families in Central Florida. Through Latino Leadership, Mrs. Sanz has implemented social enrichment programs that incorporate leadership development and empowerment, education advancement, and economic community development. Her contribution to our community has helped pave the way for young Hispanics to succeed and become leaders in their own right. Mrs. Sanz truly understands the need to invest in future generations.

Mrs. Sanz lends her expertise to the University of Central Florida President's Minority Advisory Board, the Homeless Coalition Board of Directors, and Florida Devereux Board of Directors. Her work in voter engagement and health education has received national and statewide coverage from media outlets such as CNN, Univision, Telemundo, the St. Petersburg Times, NPR News and the San Juan Star. Mrs. Sanz can be heard on her radio program, Al Oido de la Comunidad.

Mrs. Sanz is a leader and staunch supporter of minority representation. Her work to ensure fairly drawn electoral districts in Orange County has been celebrated in the Hispanic community. Ms. Sanz's work against voter suppression has helped protect the integrity of the democratic process in Central Florida and empower our citizens and families.

Before founding Latino Leadership, Mrs. Sanz worked for the Census Bureau and

served as the Central Florida Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for the Gore/Lieberman campaign. More recently, Marytza Sanz was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve on Florida's 2010 Statewide Complete Count Committee to ensure a comprehensive count of Florida's population during the 2010 Census.

I am happy to honor Marytza Sanz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her accomplishments and service to the Central Florida Hispanic Community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
MARISSA SALA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Marissa Salas for her dedicated civic engagement. Marissa is a leader in Central Florida who believes in equality and advocating for the rights of the LGBT community. She currently serves as the GLBT Statewide Caucus Campaign Director and President of the Rainbow Democrats of Orange County, Florida.

Marissa graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Social Science and her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Florida State University. During her career, she has served as a GIS Test Manager and Analyst for Geonetics, Inc. in Boston, MA, and as a Senior Project Director for Lopez and Cheung, Inc. in Tampa, FL.

Marissa has participated in several campaigns including as the Campaign and Political Director for John Alvarez in the 2012 Florida House of Representatives race in Brevard County. She is also the principle and owner of her own consulting firm, Marissa Salas Consulting. Her public policy research has been published by the New York Times, and used as reference material by the UCLA School of Law. Marissa has also received many awards, including the 2007 Civic Award from the Municipal League of King County.

I am happy to honor Marissa Sala, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for being a champion of equality and an inspiration to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARIA ISABEL  
BARAJAS-MARTINEZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize an amazing young woman named Maria Isabel Barajas-Martinez.

Maria was an active leader in the immigration reform movement since she was in high school. She graduated from Lake Region High School with high honors in 2009, where she was also the president of the National Spanish Honor Society. She went on to pursue her education at Polk State College and aspired to become a pediatrician. While attending Polk State College, Maria joined the local chapter of Students Working for Equal Rights. In May 2010 she founded a youth organization dedicated to community service called the Young American Dreamers.

With the help of her organization, Maria focused on raising funds to provide scholarships for high school students seeking a higher education. Maria and the Young American Dreamers committed themselves to helping their community. The Young American Dreamers adopted Lake Blue Park where they planted flowers and trees during its construction and participated in the yearly Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Winter Haven.

Maria was also a volunteer at Angels Care and at the Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

Every year, she organized her friends and family to participate in the National Kidney Foundation "Kidney Walk" around Lake Hollingsworth. She was a mentor and tutor at Snively Elementary School and an active member of her church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Mission, where she was a member of the Youth Choir and Youth Group.

Although she was a U.S. Citizen by birth, Maria sympathized with the struggles of undocumented immigrants and dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Until her untimely death in June of 2012, this outstanding young woman helped countless others through community service and activism.

I am happy to honor Maria Isabel Barajas-Martinez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her selfless dedication to her community and her many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
MARIA PADILLA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Maria Padilla, a champion of diversity within the Central Florida community. Maria is a well-respected journalist and currently serves as the editor of Orlando's oldest Spanish-language weekly newspaper, La Prensa.

Maria graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English from Rutgers University. She also has a certificate in Hispanic Marketing Communications from Florida State University and graduated from the Leadership Orlando class in Fall of 2013. Maria broke new ground as a senior reporter covering diversity in Central Florida for the Orlando Sentinel in 1997. She later launched and headed El Sentinel, a new Spanish-language weekly newspaper and website. Maria also created Vivendo, a bilingual quarterly magazine. Her blog, Orlando Latino, was nominated best Latino blog in Central Florida by LATISM (Latinos in Social Media).

Maria has received numerous awards and acknowledgements for her contributions as a successful journalist. She received the National Association of Hispanic Publications award for a Multiple Series Article, was recognized multiple times for her work with the Orlando Sentinel, and was a finalist in the Knight-Wallace journalism awards. Maria is also a founding member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and was elected twice to their national Board of Directors.

I am happy to honor Maria Padilla, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her contributions to journalism and dedication to informing the Hispanic community on issues impacting their daily lives.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
LETICIA DIAZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great leader in the Central Florida community.

A native of New Jersey, Leticia Diaz is one of the founding faculty at Barry University's Andreas School of Law and currently serves as Dean there. Before joining the full-time faculty, Dean Diaz pursued a full-time law practice while teaching part-time at the school. She practiced in the areas of personal injury, toxic torts, and workplace chemical exposure.

Dean Diaz attended law school at Rutgers University where she received the Merck Patent Scholarship and was recognized for academic achievement by the Association of Latin American Law Students. Before entering law school, she received her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Rutgers University. She also

spent two years as a post-doctoral research chemist at Hoffman-LaRoche, where she primarily worked on the synthesis of anti-HIV compounds.

Dean Diaz teaches in the areas of torts, environmental law, toxic torts, and product liability. She is faculty advisor to the Hispanic Association of Law Students as well as the St. Thomas More Society. Her publications range from analysis of the FDA's role in consumer protection to environmental law and consumer health.

Dean Diaz invites leaders from around the country to the Central Florida area to discuss the important issues of the day. She also convenes meetings and events that bring together varying perspectives on issues that affect the Central Florida community. Central Florida is a better place for the leadership that Dean Diaz has provided.

I am happy to honor Leticia Diaz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service and her work to educate, train, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM  
FALCONE, SR. FOR RECEIVING  
THE 2013 "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT"  
AWARD FROM THE  
ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF LUZERNE COUNTY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sam Falcone, Sr., who received the 2013 Italian American Association of Luzerne County "Lifetime Achievement" Award. Sam has dedicated nearly 60 years to his family's local business, Falcone Beverage Co., which his father started along with Sam and his brothers, Raymond, Charles, Carmen, Leonard and Angelo.

Throughout his life Sam has been an outstanding American and active citizen in his community. He was one of the original founders of the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame and its first president. He has been involved with an array of charities including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, YMCA, the American Red Cross, and he served on the board of the American Lung Association. He worked with many professional organizations such as the Better Business Bureau, the Chambers of Commerce in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and the Greater Pittston Area, and he served as the vice-president of the Malt Beverage Distributing Association. Sam also actively worked to preserve the resources within his community by taking part in the Susquehanna River Watch and the Rails-to-Trails Riverfront Revitalization Committee.

Sam has lived in the city of Pittston his whole life and has devoted himself to the welfare of his hometown. A practicing Catholic, Sam attends St. Joseph Marelo Parish and is a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus Council 372, Pittston. He also served on the Pittston Child Development Center's Advisory Council. Recently, Sam had the honor of being the Grand Marshal of the Pittston's annual Tomato Festival Parade. Today, I am proud to recognize Sam Falcone,